GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5390
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND IN GIR FOREST
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to protect the forest land in Gujarat particularly in Gir Forest;

(b) whether the loss of wildlife have been reported due to the diversion of forest land; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to rectify the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) According to the information received from the State Government, following steps have been taken to protect the forest land in Gujarat including Gir Forests:

1. Forests have been notified as Sanctuaries/National Parks, Reserved Forests and other categories.

2. Certain forests in Gir have been given more attention by declaring them as National Park and Sanctuary. The area is demarcated and adequate protection measures like stone wall fencing, have been taken up to protect the area against the encroachment.

3. Patrolling and effective monitoring by the field staff.

4. Enforcement of provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(b) According to the report of the State Government, the loss of wildlife has not taken place due to any incidence of diversion of forest land, as no diversion of land having negative impact, is allowed in Gir Protected Area.

(c) Does not arise.